



Something Special *from* Wisconsin™ Member Receives Scholarship for State Conference

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MADISON – Joel Bernhard, owner of Confections for Any Occasion, is already Something Special *from* Wisconsin™ and now he has been awarded a scholarship to showcase his quality products at the 2013 Rehabilitation & Transition Conference, an annual event attended by hundreds of professionals.

“Joel Bernhard is a blind entrepreneur who makes gourmet specialty chocolates,” said Deb Henderson-Guenther, President of the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association and a Complaint Investigator with the Client Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). “He is a positive example for other exhibitors and attendees of how a person with a disability can be successful in opening and operating a business.”

The 2013 Rehabilitation & Transition Conference is April 10-12 in Elkhart Lake. Hosted by Rehabilitation for Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association, this conference provides training and encourages collaboration between community rehabilitation providers, educators and university programs, businesses, state and local government, advocacy organizations and social service agencies.

As part of the conference’s commitment to help Wisconsin citizens achieve independence and meaningful employment, the planning committee instituted a scholarship three years ago to allow someone to exhibit free of charge to promote their services or sell their products. Bernhard was selected for the scholarship based on his completed application, his informational and easy-to-use website as well as the appeal and affordability of his product. The scholarship is valued at approximately \$675.

Bernhard opened Confections for Any Occasion in 2000 and offers unique, one-of-a-kind handmade chocolates, truffles, toffee, caramels, novelties and specialty confections. As a Something Special *from* Wisconsin™ company, the red and yellow trademark on his product guarantees at least half of a product’s ingredients, production or processing are from Wisconsin. There are more than 450 Something Special *from* Wisconsin™ companies in the state.

To learn more about Confections for Any Occasion or more Something Special *from* Wisconsin™ companies, visit <http://www.somethingspecialwi.com/>. For more on the Conference, visit <http://www.rfw.org/>.

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